

REMARKS

Amendments to claims 1, 8, 11, 18, 25, 28, 35, 40, and 43 are for the purpose of clarifying what Applicant regards as the invention. No new matter has been added.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 38, 41, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as allegedly being indefinite. According to the Office Action, it is unclear how to generate a composite image by subtracting one image from another. Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to paragraphs 76, which describes in one embodiment that a composite image is generated as a result of subtracting one image from another.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-21, 23-31, and 33-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,434,215 (Cesmeli). Claims 35-41 and 43-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,678,399 (Doi). Applicant respectfully notes that in order to sustain a rejection under §102, each element in the rejected claim must be found, either expressly or inherently, in the cited reference.

Claims 1, 8, 11, 18, 25, and 28

Claims 1, 8, and 11 each recites *enhancing a feature* in a x-ray image (emphasis added). Claims 18, 25, and 28 each recites a similar limitation. Cesmeli does not disclose or suggest such limitation. Rather, Cesmeli discloses determining a region of interest by subtracting an average set of views from a view set (column 5, lines 8-30). As such, Cesmeli does not disclose or suggest enhancing a feature in an image, as recited in each of claims 1, 8, 11, 18, 25, and 28. For at least the foregoing reason, claims 1, 8, 11, 18, 25, and 28, and their respective dependent claims, are believed allowable over Cesmeli.

Claims 35, 40, and 43

Claims 35, 40, and 43 each recites obtaining a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the second x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object. Doi does not disclose or suggest such limitation. Rather, Doi discloses obtaining a plurality of section images at *different cross sectional planes* of an object (see figures 1 and 7a-7c). As such, Doi discloses obtaining section images of *different portions* of an object. For at least the foregoing reason, claims 35, 40, and 43, and their respective dependent claims, are believed allowable over Doi.

III. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant submitted an Information Disclosure Statement on March 22, 2005. However, we have not yet received confirmation that reference number 1 listed on form PTO/SB/08b has been initialed and considered. Attached hereto is a copy of the form PTO/SB/08b (1 pg.). Applicant hereby respectfully requests that the reference listed on form PTO/SB/08b be initialed and considered by the Examiner.

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Substitute for form 1449B-PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	2
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Complete if Known

Application Number	10/656,063
Filing Date	September 5, 2003
First Named Inventor	Hassan MOSTAFAVI
Art Unit	2882
Examiner Name	Hoon K. Song
Attorney Docket Number	VM7031422003

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner's Signature		Date Considered	
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. This information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1430, Alexandria, VA 22313-1430.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, all remaining claims are believed in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, please contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-2518, referencing billing number 7031422003. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any underpayment to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-2518, referencing billing number 7031422003.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: July 18, 2005

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